

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 10909 01 OF 02 181232Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 IO-14 SAB-01

SSO-00 CCO-00 /109 W

----- 030652

R 181100Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2526

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 10909

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK

SUBJ: BHUTTO INTERVIEW ON FOREIGN AND DEMOESTIC POLICY

REF: NEW DELHI 14824

SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW DECEMBER 16, BHUTTO REVIEWED DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS ALONG GENERALLY FAMILIAR LINES. HE SUGGESTED THAT SOME POLITICAL COM-PROMISE WITH HIS OPPOSITION IN BALUCHISTAN MIGHT BE IN OFFING. HE DENIED IRAN WAS FINANCING MILITARY OPERATIONS IN BALUCHISTAN AND AFFIRMED GOP'S ABILITY TO CONTROL BALUCH-TYPE INSURGENCY IN FRONTIER PROVINCE SHOULD ONE DEVELOP. HE REAFFIRMED HIS COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES WHILE CASTIGATING HIS OPPOSITION FOR ITS TACTICS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON EVE OF SECOND ANNIVERSARY BHUTTO'S ASSUMPTION

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 10909 01 OF 02 181232Z

OF POWER, PRIMIN HAS ISSUED SPATE OF POLICE PRONOUNCE-

MENTS. HE IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO WIND UP CURRENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY DECEMBER 19 AND TO ADDRESS MASS MEETING IN RAWALPINDI ON DECEMBER 20 ANNIVERSARY DATE. BELOW ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEW BHUTTO GAVE TO PAKISTAN-BASED FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN RAWALPINDI DECEMBER 16, WHICH HAS BEEN HEADLINED IN LOCAL PRESS. HE MADE NO STARTLING DEPARTURES FROM WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SUBJECTS. MAY OF HIS REMARKS LIKELY TO BE REPEATED IN SPEECHES SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS WEEK.

2. ISLAMIC SUMMIT. BHUTTO TOLD CORRESPONDENTS FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES "WERE LIKELY" TO MEET ON JANUARY 15 FOR TWO-DAY CONFERENCE IN LAHORE, TO BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION REGARDING OBJECT OF CONFERENCE, HE REPLIED THAT PURPOSE WAS TO DEMONSTRATE UNITED STAND OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. HE ADDED THAT OBJECT WAS NOT TO COMPLICATE FURTHER ALREADY COMPLICATED PROBLEMS. "WE WANT TO FACILITATE THE SETTLEMENT OF THESE COMPLICATED PROBLEMS," HE SAID.

3. INDO-BANGLADESH-PAK RELATIONS. BHUTTO SAID THAT "NORMALIZATION OF OUR RELATIONS" WAS PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO EXPECTATIONS BUT WAS MOVING SLOWLY. "ONCE REPATRIATION IS COMPLETED WE WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE DISCUSSION (SIC) AGAIN." HE REITERATED THAT DELHI AGREEMENT PRECLUDED TRANSFER OF THE 195 PAK POW'S TO DACCA, HOWEVER, AND AFFIRMED ONCE AGAIN THAT GOP WAS ITSELF PREPARED TO INVESTIGATE WAR CRIMES ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PAKISTAN SOLDIERS AND PUNISH ANY WHO HAD COMMITTED EXCESSES. PRI MIN LISTED AS HIS MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT IN FOREIGN POLICY FIELD RETURN OF INDIAN-OCCUPIED PAKISTANI TERRITORY AND PF PAK POW'S "WITHOUT PAKISTAN COMPROMISING HER BASIC INTERESTS OR HER FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES".

4. POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. BHUTTO EMPHASIZED HIS COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES, BUT CAUTIONED THAT PAKISTANI TEMPERAMENT WAS SUCH THAT PEOPLE EITHER WANTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 10909 01 OF 02 181232Z

TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE GOVERNMENT: NO HAPPY MEDIUM HAD YET BEEN EVOLVED. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PREPARED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REACH SATISFACTORY FORMULA BUT POLITICAL OPPOSITION ALSO HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO DO THE SAME. HE CRITICIZED HIS OPPOSITION FOR BYCOTTING ASSEMBLY SESSIONS AND MOST RECENTLY FOR REFUSING TO ATTEND DINNER HE HAD HOSTED FOR MEMBERS OF SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, SUGGESTING THAT DINNER MEETING WITH OPPOSITION COULD

HAVE OPENED UP POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

5. BALUCHISTAN/IRAN. BHUTTO SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ENGAGED IN PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE FEUDALISM AND OTHER ANTIQUATED ARRANGEMENTS IN BALUCHISTAN IN ORDER TO SERVE INTERESTS OF PEOPLE IN THAT PROVINCE. HE DENIED ALLEGATIONS THAT FOUR OR FIVE PAK ARMY DIVISIONS WERE OPERATING IN BALUCHISTAN, IMPLYING THAT LESS THAN ONE DIVISION WAS DEPLOYED IN THE PROVINCE, AND HE DENOUNCED STORIES THAT IRAN WAS HELPING TO MEET EXPENSES OF ARMY OPERATIONS IN BALUCHISTAN. BHUTTO SAID DOOR WOULD BE KEPT OPEN FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON BALUCHISTAN ALTHOUGH THIS DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY SINCE BALUCHISTAN WAS "MORE A PROBLEM OF INDIVIDUALS THAN PARTIES". HE WENT ON TO SAY HE BELIEVED SATISFACTORY POLITICAL SOLUTION IN BALUCHI-

STAN WOULD BE REACHED SOONER THAN MOST PEOPLE EXPECTED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED EXISTENCE OF "MICROSCOPIC" RADICAL GROUPS IN BALUCHISTAN BUT BELITTLED THEIR SIGNIFICANCE.

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 10909 02 OF 02 181207Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 10909

6. NAP, THE FRONTIER, AND AFGHANISTAN. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION WHETHER AN INSURGENCY SUCH AS EXISTS IN BALUCHISTAN MIGHT DEVELOP IN NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE, BHUTTO SAID SUCH POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED "BUT THE PROBLEMS WILL BE MANAGEABLE. THE FEARS OF UNMANAGEABLE PROBLEMS AFTER THE SEPARATION OF EAST PAKISTAN ARE BEHIND US." HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SITUATION WOULD BE ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT IF THERE WERE FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE PROVINCE. PRECLUDING THIS, PAKISTAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO MANAGE ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS. BHUTTO STRONGLY DENIED THAT OPPOSITION POLITICAL FIGURES HAD BEEN TORTURED WHILE IN DETENTION AND HOTLY DENIED THAT GOP WAS IN ANY WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON NAP LEADER WALI KHAN. HE PROMISED THAT RECENT ORDINANCE OUTLAWING VARIOUS SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT BE USED INDISCRIMINATELY. HE CLAIMED THAT ARRESTS IN NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE OF SOME 200 PERSONS WERE UNDERTAKEN NOT ONLY FOR POLITICAL REASONS BUT ALSO BECAUSE THOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 10909 02 OF 02 181207Z

ARRESTED BELONGED TO PARA-MILITARY PAKHTOON ZALME ORGANIZATION.

7. ECONOMY. BHUTTO SAID THAT WHILE GOP IS PROMOTING MIXED ECONOMY GOP HAD NO INTENTION OF NATIONALIZING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS A PLACE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR.

8. PRESS. ASKED TO COMMENT ON CHARGES BY POLITICAL OPPOSITION THAT THEIR VIEWS ARE IGNORED BY PRESS, BHUTTO SAID ANYONE WHOSE "ACTIVITIES ARE WORTH REPORTING WILL FIND PLACE IN THE PRESS". HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD GRADUALLY ELIMINATE SYSTEM OF PRESS ADVICES ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

9. COMMENT: BHUTTO'S SUGGESTION THAT COMPROMISE IN BALUCHISTAN MAY BE OFFING IS INTRIGUING. RUMORED HERE BHUTTO MIGHT ANNOUNCE RELEASE THREE PRINCIPAL DETAINED BALUCH LEADERS AT HIS DECEMBER 20 PUBLIC MEETING. ALSO PRESS REPORTS THAT POLITICAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, JATOI, WHO HAS MET SECRETLY WITH DETAINEES, HAS FLOWN TO TEHRAN OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS ISLAMIC SUMMIT. ALL THIS DOES GIVE IMPRESSION SOMETHING MAY BE UP BUT THEN BHUTTO NOT INFREQUENTLY STIRS UP VARIOUS RUMORS TO MEET POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS OF MOMENT. BYROADE

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